

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action dated December 2, 2004. Please extend the time one-month up to and including April 2, 2005 in which to respond to the Office Action. Please charge the extension fee of \$60 to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

In the Office Action the Examiner has objected to the specification and contends that the relationship between the structure depicted in Fig 13 and Fig. 3 is unclear. It is submitted that one skilled in the art would understand that pin 901 is designed to be received in the center socket or aperture that is defined by collar 90. In such an engagement the plate 901 would engage the top surface of collar 90. These types of hitch relationships are well known to those of ordinary skilled in the art. It is also well known that the arrangement of the male and female elements of a hitch may be reversed as is disclosed by the Applicant's king pin example wherein the male element is on the trailer and the female element of the hitch is on the vehicle.

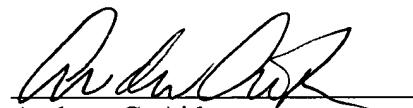
In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings and contends that the hitch receiving member 89 is not shown in the drawings. In response to the objection the applicant has removed the language "mounted on hitch receiving member 89 that is in turn." It is submitted that the language that was removed is superfluous because, as illustrated in Fig. 3, the collar hitch 90 is mounted on floating member 48.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 2 pursuant to Section 112 of the Patent Statute because the term "receiving member" lacked a proper antecedent basis. In response to the rejection the applicant has amended Claim 2 as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has also rejected claims on non-statutory double patenting grounds. In response to the rejection, and without prejudice, the Applicant is submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer. Please charge the terminal disclaimer fee of \$65 to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Wherefore, it is submitted that all grounds of rejection and objections have been traversed and that the case is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: April 4, 2005

Andrew C. Aitken
Registration No. 36,729
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4000
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

::ODMA\PCDOCS\DC2DOCS1\624430\1